

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,040

Examiner

Tianjie Chen

Applicant(s)

AZAI, KOUJI

Art Unit

2656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-5.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20062121
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nils E. Pedersen on 02/21/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 1, last line; --; wherein the drive roll assembly, the free-roll slider and the rotary lever are adapted to work together and hold the disc on its circumference by applying the second drive roll, the second free roll and the free end of the rotary lever to three points on the circumference of the disc -- has been inserted after "apparatus."
- Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to independent claim 1; as the closest reference on record, Lee et al (US 6,880,160) discloses a disc loading-and-unloading structure, wherein a drive roll assembly, the free-roll and the rotary lever are adapted to work together and hold the disc on its circumference by applying the second drive roll, the second free roll and the free end of the rotary lever to three points on the circumference of the disc; **but fails to show** the loading-and-unloading structure has structure as having: a drive motor; a drive roll assembly

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comprising first and second drive rolls and, an intervening transmission gear wheel, and a rotatable arm plate, the first drive roll being rotatably fixed to a stationary stud axle standing upright on a chassis of the disc apparatus, next to one end of a disc slot made in the front of the apparatus, and the first drive roll being connected to the drive motor; the first and second drive rolls being fixed to the opposite ends of the rotatable arm plate with the intervening transmission gear wheel sandwiched therebetween; a free-roll slider movably fixed to the chassis of the apparatus, next to the other end of the disc slot, the free-roll slider comprising first and second free rolls, and a slidable arm plate, the first and second free rolls being fixed to the opposite ends of the slidable arm plate; a rotary lever rotatably fixed to the chassis on the rear side of the chassis so that its free end may abut a disc when being inserted from the disc slot and advancing toward the rear side in the apparatus; a slider operatively connected to the rotary lever; and link-and-spring connection means for normally urging the free-roll slider toward the drive roll assembly, allowing the free-roll slider to move apart from the drive roll assembly as a counter action to hitting-and-pushing by the disc when inserted into the apparatus.

- Applicant asserts: "the present invention is to provide a disc loading-and-unloading structure, which is simple in structure, still capable of performing all required actions for loading and unloading with precision" (Specification, p. 2).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER